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Environmental News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin investigative studies in September at the North and South Cavalcade Street Superfund sites in Houston. The studies, which will take 18 months to complete, will determine the nature and extent of contamination at the sites which will lead to long-term cleanup plans.

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The federal agency will hold a public meeting September 11 to discuss activities and schedules. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Lindale Park Civic Club, 218 Joyce Street, Houston.

The North Cavalcade Street site covers about 21 acres in northeast Houston - about one mile west of the intersection of Interstate Loop 610 North and U.S. Route 59. After World War II, Houston Creosoting, Inc. began wood-treating operations there. About 1955, the Company expanded and began using pentachlorophenol (PCP). The Company went out of business in 1961. The land then was sold and developed, and two large warehouses were built on the property.

The South Cavalcade Street site covers a 69-acre area that is bounded by Cavalcade and Collingsworth Streets, the Missouri and Pacific and Houston Belt Terminal Railroads and Maury Street. The site also was a wood-treating facility and initially operated from 1911 until 1939. From 1940 to 1961, Koppers Company, Inc. ran a wood-treating and coal tar distillation operation at the site. It currently is used by three trucking firms.

Koppers has agreed to do the site investigation at the South Cavalcade site. EPA will maintain oversight of the activities. EPA will do the work at the North Cavalcade site using Superfund money. Both studies will provide new information about possible off-site migration of the wastes and potential public health impacts - and ultimately, the best way to clean up the contamination.

In early 1983, the Texas Water Commission, formerly the Texas Department of Water Resources, learned of possible contamination problems at the sites. Both sites were added to EPA's national priority list (NPL) of Superfund sites on October 2, 1984.

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